

Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP78-01634R000300030008-8
OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.

SECRET

July 31, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Working Group - Committee on Broadcasting
and Television (COBAT)

21st Meeting held 2 p.m. July 31, 1956
OCB Conference Room

Working Group Members Present:

USIA - Robert E. Button, Chairman
Frederick A. Long
State - T. H. E. Nesbitt (Chairman TPIB)
ICA - Gerald Winfield
Defense - Col. M. E. Williamson
CIA - Representatives present
OCB - Ralph Busick, Staff Representative
Marjorie Denny, Staff Assistant

Others Present:

State - George Allen
Philip Burris
ICA - Stephen Dorsey

1. The minutes of the meetings of June 13, 18, 27 and July 5 were approved.

2. Messrs. Allen and Dorsey were present for a discussion of the TV situation in Lebanon, the background of which was supplied by the Chairman and the ICA representative. Mr. Allen, in some impromptu remarks, stressed the importance of Beirut and the educational TV project, saying he thought it worth doing anything the U.S. could do to see that TV is channeled there through American aegis; that it was most desirable for the political integration of the area.

After the departure of Messrs. Allen and Dorsey, discussion brought out ICA's need for a fully staffed position from the State Department based on Mr. Allen's remarks, as to the political desirability of the Beirut project. The following query was therefore addressed to the State Department representative: Does the political situation in Lebanon warrant reentry of ICA with funds to increase the scope of participation in the establishment of an educational TV station in Beirut?

3. With reference to the proposals in Saigon Despatch No. 375, COBAT at its July 5 meeting decided to postpone final consideration until ICA had supplied further information on the status of the Mission's facilities, and until the separate despatch promised by the Mission on the subject of installation of a big transmitter had been received. Meanwhile, a message which contained no mention of the transmitter problem was sent to Saigon through the OCB country working group. The Staff Representative agreed

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to draft a follow-up telegram requesting the despatch promised by the Mission.

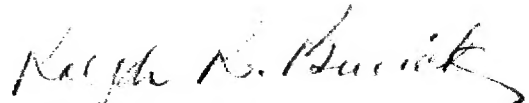
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4. A draft progress report on NSC #169 was next considered. This draft included wherever possible the language of the report dated February 1, 1956 which was approved by the Board Assistants and the Board, and transmitted to the NSC, but never considered by the Council. The Staff Representative supplied the background on OCB reporting to the NSC on international broadcasting, explaining that OCB had decided to submit a new report, consolidating and bringing up to date the previous report, rather than have the NSC take up a report six months old. In view of the fact that the draft is to be reviewed at TPIB at its meeting August 2, COBAT agreed to finalize the report at its next meeting, for consideration by the Board Assistants August 17. Suggested draft changes are to be coordinated through the OCB staff.

5. The Defense representative made an inquiry of COBAT as to whether any agency (such as ICA) has the authority for making payments to foreign performing rights societies for music performances and copyrights claims. The members agreed to consult their respective agencies on this problem before the next meeting.

6. The next meeting will be held Monday, August 6, at 2 P.M.



Ralph R. Busick
Staff Representative

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